AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel (10), said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:

tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),

electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (18),

a main amalgam disposed for controlling the mercury pressure in the discharge space except for a starting period,

and at least an auxiliary amalgam (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in the discharge vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of the electrodes (20; 20'),

characterized in that

at least a part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis (12; 12'), and

the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two mutually orthogonal directions, substantially planar and transverse to said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis,

whereby during the starting period the lamp has a relatively short run-up time.

Claim 2. (original): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein a stem (21; 21') in the tubular end portion (11; 11') carries the electrode (20; 20'), and the carrier (25; 25') is provided on a supporting body arranged in the stem (21; 21').

Claims 3-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (original): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein the supporting body is formed by a wire (23, 23').

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (previously amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier (25; 25') is arranged at a side of the electrode (20; 20') facing away from the discharge space (18).

Claim 8 (previously amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier (25; 25') is electrically insulated with respect to the electrode (20; 20').

Claim 9 (previously amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier (25; 25') comprises a further part (25B) which is arranged in a plane parallel to the longitudinal axis (12; 12').

Claim 10 (previously amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the range from $0.5 < d < 8$ mm.

Claim 11 (original): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 10, wherein a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the range from $1 < d < 3$ mm.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim ~~12~~ 10, wherein the carrier (25; 25') is electrically insulated with respect to the electrode (20; 20') and comprises at least one further part (25B) which is arranged in a plane parallel to the longitudinal axis (12; 12').

Claim 14 (previously added): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 13, wherein the carrier (25; 25') is directly press-fitted onto a stem (21, 21') which carries the electrode (20, 20') in the tubular end portion (11, 11').

Claim 15 (currently amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel (10), said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:

tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),

electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (18),

and, in addition to said filling of mercury and inert gas, at least an auxiliary amalgam (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in the discharge vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of the electrodes (20; 20'),

characterized in that

at least a part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis (12; 12'),

the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two orthogonal directions transverse to said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis, and

the carrier is provided on an external surface of a supporting body ~~is~~ formed by an exhaust tube (26) which extends at least partially into the discharge space (18).

Claim 16 (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp ~~as claimed in claim 15, wherein~~ comprising a discharge vessel (10), said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:

tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),

electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (18),

and, in addition to said filling of mercury and inert gas, at least an auxiliary amalgam (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in the discharge vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of the electrodes (20; 20'),

characterized in that

at least a part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis (12; 12'),

the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two orthogonal directions transverse to said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis,

the carrier is provided on a supporting body formed by an exhaust tube (26) which extends at least partially into the discharge space (18) and has an end portion which is situated in the discharge space, and is electrically insulated with respect to the electrode (20; 20'), and

the carrier (25; 25') is ~~press fitted~~ clamped onto the end portion of the exhaust tube (26) ~~which is situated in the discharge space (18)~~.

Daniel

Claim 17 (previously added): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 16, wherein the carrier (25; 25') comprises a further part (25B) which is arranged in a plane parallel to the longitudinal axis (12; 12').

Claim 18 (previously added): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 16, wherein a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the range from $1 < d < 3$ mm.

Claim 19 (new): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 16, wherein the carrier (25; 25') comprises a further part (25B) which is arranged in a plane parallel to the longitudinal axis (12; 12'), said further part clamping the carrier onto said end portion.

Claim 20 (new): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 19, wherein a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the range from $0.5 < d < 8$ mm.

Claim 21 (new): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 19, wherein a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the range from $1 < d < 3$ mm.